

## THE SHOCKING STORY OF THAT HORRIBLE GUN RAID AGAINST WOMEN AND BABIES

(The facts stated here by Mr. Lee Calvin to Miss O'Reilly in West Virginia will appear in the sworn testimony given before the senatorial committee which investigated mine conditions in West Virginia.)

By Mary Boyle O'Reilly.

"Did labor agitators bring on the great West Virginia mine war?"

"They did NOT!"

"Any truthful man in West Virginia must tell you that union organizers could no more cause this strike than they could create a cyclone.

"Conditions did it.

"Conditions being what they were, the crash was BOUND to come.

"I saw it come when the coal companies' Gatling guns shelled sleeping women and children in Holly Grove village on Paint Creek. Great God! That was awful!"

\* \* \* \* \*

Lee Calvin, red-haired, bullet-headed and Irish, stated his opinion to me gravely. He had just risen from the cross-examination during which he put six corporation lawyers on the run.

"Do not interrupt," Senator Kenyon had admonished the miners' counsel, "this witness can take care of himself!"

"Small credit," commented Lee Calvin, in his smileless way, "me being a graduate of the college of hard knocks! If the senators knew it all, I was the least interested man at their mine war investigation. I am not for the United Mine Workers. I am not for the coal operators. Only for justice.

"The coal companies, being rich, can publish pages of slander. I want nothing but the truth. That's why I testified—that and one other reason.

"Senator Borah and I were friends long ago in Boise, Idaho. If my testimony helped his committee, I'm not sorry.

"But, it's about the coal companies' steel armored 'death special' that I want to tell you, Miss O'Reilly. Because that's what brought on this war—mainly."

Lee Calvin adjusted his stalwart body to prolonged inactivity—245 pounds of bone and sinew.

"It was the worst thing that ever happened in any strike anywhere—the shooting up of SLEEPING women and children from a fortified car, wasn't it?"

"And who did it? That's the question.

"Well, I was on that train and I know!

"About Feb. 1st I was working on Paint Creek as chief guard of a colliery. The strike had quieted down and Supt. Hale of Mucklow mine told

Capt. Levi of the Baldwin-Feltz mine guards that we must reduce his 25 gunmen to 10—five night men and five day men—a saving of \$500 a week.

"The night shift saw their chance and they took it. On Feb. 7 at 5 a. m.—before it was daylight—the night shift climbed the hills above Mucklow and shot up the miners' shacks. The day guards, just getting up, ran out to attack and found their friends.

"But a fight with striking miners sounded fine and saved their jobs. There you have the 'battle of Mucklow!'"

"Capt. Levi, in charge of B. & F. mine guards at Mucklow, telephoned the sheriff to come up and arrest the shooters.

"Sheriff Bonner Hill was just sworn in and knew next to nothing of his duties.

"R. B. Paine, assistant chief of the Baldwin-Feltz men working as Chesapeake & Ohio railroad detec-